

In the Claims

Claims 3-5, 12-24, 28-30, and 32-47 have been withdrawn from further consideration by the Examiner, as being drawn to a non-elected invention, and are further cancelled herein by the Applicant.

New claims 48-65 are entered.

In response to the election/restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action dated March 24, 2004 Applicant respectfully elects Species I, claims 1-2, 6-11, 25-27, and 31 drawn to the invention of Figures 1-7, for examination herein, as shown in the following entire set of pending claims. Claims 1, 8, 9 and 25 have been amended as shown below. Underlines indicate insertions; ~~strikeouts~~ indicate deletions.

1. (Currently Amended) A fishing pole, comprising:
a handle; and
a ~~rod carried by the handle, the rod having a base, an elongated coil spring supported by mounted axially of the base rod and adjacent the base at a proximal end, a first rod portion and a second rod portion, the rod supported by the handle, a proximal end of the first rod portion supported~~ carried by the coil spring ~~at a distal end~~ and having a distal tip end terminating in a first line guide, ~~and the second rod portion supported~~ carried by the rod so as to form a fork between the first rod portion and the second rod portion, and the second rod portion ~~and~~ having a distal tip end terminating in a second line guide.

2. (Original) The fishing pole of claim 1 wherein the second rod portion extends intermediate and adjacent the first rod portion.

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The fishing pole of claim 1 wherein the coil spring comprises a first coil spring and further comprising a second coil spring provided coaxially within the first coil spring.

7. (Original) The fishing pole of claim 6 wherein the second rod portion is carried by the second coil spring at a distal end.

8. (Currently Amended) The fishing pole of claim 1 wherein a portion of the first rod portion is curved ~~deviates from axial alignment~~ in an upward, convex direction away from a direction of bend imparted by fishing line tension applied while landing a fish.

9. (Currently Amended) The fishing pole of claim 8 wherein a portion of the second rod portion is curved ~~deviates from axial alignment~~ in an upward direction away from a direction of bend imparted by fishing line tension applied while landing a fish.

10. (Original) The fishing pole of claim 1 wherein the first rod portion comprises an arcuate section extending upwardly and away from a direction of loading when retrieving a fish.

11. (Original) The fishing pole of claim 1 wherein the handle comprises a reel seat provided on a top side of the handle.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Cancelled)

14. (Cancelled)

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) A fishing rod, comprising:

a base;

an elongated coil spring having a proximal end carried by the base and

having a distal end mounted axially of the rod adjacent the base at a proximal end;

a first rod portion having a distal tip end terminating in a first line guide and

having a proximal end carried by the spring; and

a second rod portion ~~, the first rod portion carried by the coil spring at a distal end and having a distal tip end terminating in a first line guide, and the second rod portion~~
having a proximal end carried by the rod and ~~having~~ a distal tip end terminating in a second line guide;

wherein the second rod portion is supported from the rod so as to extend from an interior of the distal end of the coil spring and the second rod portion forms a separate branch relative to the first rod portion.

26 (Original) The fishing rod of claim 25 wherein the first rod portion is bowed upwardly, away from a direction of load applied to the rod when retrieving a fish.

27. (Original) The fishing rod of claim 26 wherein the second rod portion is bowed upwardly, away from a direction of load applied to the rod when retrieving a fish.

28. (Cancelled)

29. (Cancelled)

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Original) The fishing rod of claim 25 wherein the coil spring comprises one coil spring and further comprising another coil spring, wherein the another coil spring is provided coaxially within the one coil spring, and the second rod portion is carried by a distal end of the another coil spring.

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Cancelled)

35. (Cancelled)

36. (Cancelled)

37. (Cancelled)

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Cancelled)

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Cancelled)

42. (Cancelled)

43. (Cancelled)

44. (Cancelled)

45. (Cancelled)

46. (Cancelled)

47. (Cancelled)

48. (New) The fishing pole of claim 1 wherein the distal tip end of the first rod portion is spaced apart from the distal tip end of the second rod portion.

49. (New) The fishing pole of claim 48 wherein the distal tip end of the first rod portion diverges from the distal tip end of the second rod portion.

50. (New) The fishing pole of claim 1 wherein the elongated coil spring comprises a cylindrical coil spring.

51. (New) The fishing pole of claim 50 wherein the cylindrical coil spring comprises an outer cylindrical coil spring, and further comprising an inner cylindrical coil spring carried within the outer cylindrical coil spring, the inner cylindrical coil spring having a proximal end supported by the base and a distal end configured to support a proximal end of the second rod portion.

52. (New) The fishing pole of claim 1 wherein the coil spring has a proximal end affixed to the base of the rod.

53. (New) The fishing pole of claim 52 wherein the coil spring has a distal end affixed to the proximal end of the first rod portion.

54. (New) The fishing pole of claim 1 wherein the first rod portion and the second rod portion converge together at respective proximal ends and diverge apart at respective distal ends so as to form the fork therebetween.

55. (New) The fishing rod of claim 25 wherein the proximal end of the first rod portion is carried by a distal end of the elongated coil spring.

56. (New) The fishing rod of claim 55 wherein the elongated coil spring comprises a cylindrical coil spring.

57. (New) The fishing rod of claim 56 wherein the cylindrical coil spring has a central axis that is offset from an adjacent axis extending between the base and the proximal end of the first rod portion.

58. (New) The fishing rod of claim 31 wherein the proximal end of the second rod portion is supported by a distal end of the another coil spring, and a proximal end of the another coil spring is affixed to the base.

59. (New) The fishing rod of claim 58 wherein the one coil spring and the another coil spring each comprise a cylindrical coil spring, and wherein the another coil spring is smaller in diameter than the one coil spring.

60. (New) The fishing rod of claim 25 wherein the proximal ends of the first rod portion and the second rod portion converge, and wherein the distal ends of the first rod

portion and the second rod portion diverge so as to form a diverging fork between the first rod portion and the second rod portion.

61. (New) A fishing pole comprising:

a handle; and

a rod with a base, a coil spring supported by the base, an arcuate, upwardly extending first rod portion and an arcuate, upwardly extending second rod portion, the rod supported by the handle, a proximal end of the first rod portion affixed to a distal end of the coil spring and having a distal tip end terminating in a first line guide, the second rod portion carried by the rod so as to exit from within the coil spring and having a distal tip end terminating in a second line guide;

wherein the second rod portion extends arcuately, upwardly in a smaller radial arc than does the first rod portion so as to impart a diverging fork configuration extending from a proximal end of each of the first and second rod portions and toward a distal end of each of the first and second rod portions.

62. (New) The fishing pole of claim 61 wherein the second rod portion comprises an arcuate portion and a substantially linear distal end portion providing the distal tip end.

63. (New) The fishing pole of claim 62 wherein the first rod portion comprises an arcuate portion and a substantially straight distal end portion configured to provide the distal tip end.

64. (New) The fishing pole of claim 63 wherein the distal end portion of the first rod portion and the distal end portion of the second rod portion form a diverging angle in a direction extending towards each respective distal tip end.

65. (New) The fishing pole of claim 61 wherein the handle comprises a reel seat provided atop the handle.